

REFERENCE
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O. W. Pendergast

522 OHIO STREET • P.O. BOX 244

TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA 47808

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1988

August 2, 1987

Ms. Dorothy J. Clark
% Terre Haute Tribune-Star
Terre Haute, IN 47808

Dear Dorothy,

For many years now, we have been reading your very fine articles on the history of Terre Haute and vicinity. One of my favorites was a few years ago when you told the story of an ex civil war doctor from Parke County named William Overton.

Reading this article (which I still have) I suddenly discovered where I got my (first two) names! That they were unusual, to say the least, has always bothered me. My grandmother, who was solely responsible for this name, could not have thought it up herself. Just before my father was born, my grandmother, a widow of about two months, moved from a small log cabin in Parke county to Terre Haute, where she lived with her father for several years. My father was the last of six children, and they were "dirt poor" so to speak. She was attended to, free, during this period by a "friendly old doctor" from Rockville! His name was not passed down, at least to me, and I doubt if my father knew it - at least he never mentioned it. This doctor was almost the "godfather" of my father. To make a long story short, my father was named OVERTON WILLIAM PENDERGAST. I was named Overton Jr. So there it is. What do you think? Was this the one and same doctor?

The second, and most recent reason for writing this letter was your article today. The one about 12 Points 75 years ago. With due respect, the following two items did not take place quite 75 years ago, but almost. First was the Swander Bank, built on the Southwest corner of 13th and Maple, and the building still standing today. The original bank survived from sometime in the "teens" to the 30's, when most banks went over the hill. The second item was the new building build in 1922-23 at 2222 North Thirteenth Street. This was the home of the Unique Printed Products Company. It was started on the second floor of the old Lee School supply company on third street (just recently torn down), and moved to twelve points in 1924. The same Overton William Pendergast started and operated this company.

no mention of ?

only earlier land uses there

But at least you are adding to our knowledge

of 12 Pts after 1922-23.

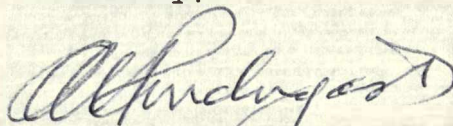
The study of family genealogy is an absorbing one.

Bank referred to is present NW corner of 13th & Maple

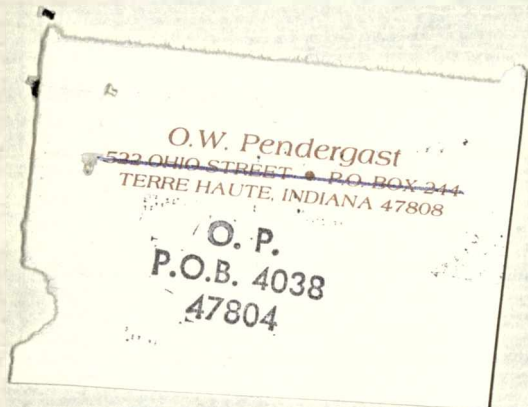
It was in the same location until 1977 - when it moved to the new Fruitridge Avenue location. Unique, for many years, employed over 50 percent of all people working in 12 points. During the depression, they never missed a payroll. Unique specialized in manufacturing tags and labels, which were sold nationwide by direct mail. In 1981, when it was merged into Standard Register Company, it was the largest independent label manufacturing concern in the country with sales approaching ten million dollars, and a payroll of over 200 persons - all in Terre Haute!

This was all started by one man - the one who was given the name of his mother's doctor, probably out of gratitude.

Sincerely,



O. W. Pendergast, Jr.
2635 North Ninth Street
Terre Haute, IN 47804



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